

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 and 16-17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 16-17 are amended, and claim 15 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-12 are allowed. The Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable features of claim 15 have been added to independent claim 13, and claim 15 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 13-14 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 16 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 16-17 should also be in condition for allowance.

Serial No. **10/576,561**

Docket No. **P-0772**

Amendment dated December 30, 2009

Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2009

The Office Action rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0209024. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP


Carol L. Druzwick
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 CLD:ptb:tlg

Date: December 30, 2009

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610